All other points will be considered separately after the Assembly is over and you will be given replies separately.

There is already a cart track along the bank dividing Therkulam and Mekaputheri tank serving the agricultural needs. Opening a road will necessitate the construction of two bridges one at Manikaputherikulam and the other at Theraikal.

The local officers and others in a position to judge are of opinion that there is no urgent need for this road and therefore it must take its place on the waiting list.

You have given me a representation in which you say an order was issued prohibiting the removal of silt. That is not correct. What the order says is that you should obtain previous permission to remove.

MEMBER: We are the persons who are immediately affected by it. Government will feel the evil only gradually.

DEWAN: You see the practice hitherto has been for anybody and every body at any time they choose to remove silt. Now, there is to be a systematic removal of silt which will be regulated and those who want silt have to obtain permission beforehand.

71. Needs of Nanjanad.

MR. R. SIVASUBRAHMONYA NADAR (*Member, Nominated*) said many pakuthi cutcherries were situated far away from the centre of the pakuthies. Agastispuram and Cape Comorin pakuthy cutcherries were instances in point. Since the location of the cutcherries in out of the way places caused great inconvenience to the public, they should be transferred to the centre of the pakuthies, as far as possible.

According to the prevailing system of tax collection, land-owners who possessed lands in different pakuthies had to remit their taxes piecemeal to the respective pakuthies in which the lands were situated. If at times the payment of tax was delayed, demand notices were issued to them from the different pakuthies and a fee of one fanam was levied on each notice. But if the taxes due from all the pakuthies were consolidated, only one demand notice would have to be issued and only a fee of one fanam would have to be levied. It was therefore desirable that all land taxes due from a land-owner on lands lying in different pakuthies should be consolidated and made payable in the pakuthi cutcherry of the pakuthi where he resided.

Survey training was regarded as an indispensable qualification for candidates seeking appointment as surveyors or accountants, but since the only survey schools in the State were at Trivandrum and Kottayam, the people of South Travancore were at a disadvantage. Few of them could come up to Trivandrum for studying in the Central Survey School. To remove this disadvantage, it was desirable to open a survey school at Nagercoil. If that was not possible, Nagercoil might be made an additional centre for the survey entrance examination. The courses of study for the survey examination might also be shortened.

Salt cultivation in the Rajakkamangalam allom was in a deplorable condition. In olden days this allom was producing more than a hundred thousand maunds of salt annually. But now there was practically no production whatever. One of the main causes of this was the percolation of fresh water. This could be remedied by keeping the ring channels in proper condition and draining them with the aid of pumps. The supply of brine also had to be enhanced. All the efforts of the Public Works Department in this direction had failed. The diversion of the fresh water of the Alenkal into the sea by constructing an anicut near Ottapanai would greatly improve the brine supply. If this was not possible, brine might be supplied direct from the sea with the aid of an engine. Both or either of these suggestions should be given effect to immediately.

So far as agricultural operations in Nanjanad were concerned, the opening of certain roads would be of immense use to the cultivators. One of the banks of the Anandan Kal should, for example, be converted into a cart-road. A road should also be opened from the 50th mile, Cape road, to the Thevakolamchery. This was

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one of the roads sanctioned for the use of the Sambavars of Nanjinad. The Kottar-Ethamoly road should also be metalled and connected with the Rajakkamangalam road.

In regard to irrigation, the Chambakulam Scheme Kal opened by the public should be improved and maintained by the Government. The N. P. channel should be improved from the Ethamoly Escape downwards, a bathing ghat being constructed near Achenkulam. The tail-end tanks of the Tovala and N. P. channels should be improved immediately. In regard to these tanks, Government had by a recent notification prohibited the removal of silt by the people. While the accumulation of silt lessened the capacity of the tanks, the farmers who removed the silt helped to deepen them, and the silt further served as a good manure. The order prohibiting the removal of the silt should therefore be cancelled immediately and arrangements made for improving the tanks.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar, you want all the pakuthi cutcherries to be situated in central places. I am glad to observe that you remarked "as far as possible". That is precisely what Government are doing. There is a programme—a systematic programme of construction for pakuthi cutcherries—5 every year. New cutcherries are annually built in central places. In the case of some old ones, they are inconveniently situated. That disadvantage is being gradually and steadily remedied.

You want all land taxes due from the same pattadar in various taluks and pakuthies consolidated and made payable in the pakuthi where he lives. That is no doubt very convenient to the pattadars. But the pakuthi is a revenue unit of the State, and the whole system of accounting and administration must follow the arrangement by which the pakuthi must function as a unit. If not, there will be complete confusion. You want Government to go in chase of the pattadar from residence to residence till he is located at some fixed abode and then ask him to be so good as to pay his taxes for all his holdings. It is very convenient for the pattadar. But it is equally convenient to consolidate all his dues and send a revenue hundi from his place of residence wherever he may be to the pakuthi cutcherry concerned. I think that this is the lesser of the two evils—throwing the whole system of revenue administration into confusion or the pattadar sending all his taxes by one revenue hundi. It is better to leave things alone.

You want a survey school to be opened at Nagercoil and a shorter course. Nagercoil is only less than 4 hours' journey from Trivandrum where there is a survey school. There is no pressing need for taking a large number of surveyors in Nagercoil. You are labouring under some misapprehension when you say that a survey school is conducted for fitting people for entry into Government service. That is not the case. It is for training Government servants and any body else who wants it for his own purpose, perhaps to settle boundary disputes between him and his neighbour. In any case, the course cannot be shortened to less than three months. It will then prove ineffective. As it is, three months is short enough.

You talk of the improvement of the Rajakkamangalam salt allom and prevention of percolation of fresh water and the supply of brine. I am glad to tell you that the Chief Engineer and the Excise Commissioner, shortly before the Assembly began, spent some days investigating the problem of salt pans and brine, and they think they have arrived at a solution of the difficulties, which they propose to place before the Government shortly.

Then you talk of the conversion of the bank of Karavillai branch of Anantan kal into a cart road. That has been taken over and maintained by the P. W. D. from last year ; and every year a certain amount of the departmental maintenance grant will be spent upon it to improve it. A portion is already suitable for cart traffic. There is some masonry work to be done here and there as also consolidation work to make the whole of it suitable for cart traffic. This will be done bit by bit every year.

As regards the other points, I again request you as I did last year, to select three of the most important points, at least the most needed, and send it to the Chief Secretary. They will be gone into and you will be given the answer.

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